

GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM

Friday, July 14, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This was a great week for Michigan – for our workers and for our economy.

This week, we celebrated new beginnings and longstanding commitments.

On Tuesday, internet-giant Google announced they have chosen Michigan as the location for the new headquarters of AdWords – their latest internet project.

The company will create 1,000 jobs over the next five years around Ann Arbor. In fact, they are already hiring right now.

These are good paying, cutting edge jobs – jobs that will not be outsourced, jobs that will keep more of our kids here at home after they graduate from college.

Google's commitment is another clear sign that our efforts to transform Michigan's economy are beginning to pay dividends.

After a year of negotiation, Google chose Michigan because of our highly skilled workforce. And the company's investment will serve as a catalyst for economic growth in our state.

While we celebrated Google's new commitment to our great state, I also had the chance to visit two companies this week who are renewing and expanding their longtime presence in Michigan.

American Litho, a leading producer of newspaper image plates, has been headquartered in Grand Rapids since its doors first opened.

After being bought by Konica-Minolta last year, the company, which was already expanding, announced it would expand even more.

When this expansion is complete, the company will employ more than 150 people - double their size from just 3 years ago.

During my recent trip to Japan, I had the chance to sit down with Konica-Minolta executives to finalize the terms of that expansion and was pleased to hear that the company's commitment to Michigan just keeps growing.

Faurecia, a global auto supplier based in France, is also expanding their commitment to Michigan.

After choosing to locate their North American headquarters in Troy last year, Faurecia announced they would expand their Sterling Heights plant in Macomb County and build a new plant in Fraser.

This week, I had the chance to celebrate the grand opening of this Fraser plant, where the company will produce interior systems for General Motors, Daimler Chrysler and Ford. After more than a year of conversations, it was great to be a part of the celebration.

From the growth of high-tech manufacturing on the West side to successful auto suppliers in Macomb County to the arrival of Google, this has, indeed, been a great week for Michigan.

But we won't stop working. Our comprehensive economic plan and our willingness to go anywhere and do anything to bring jobs to Michigan is sending clear messages to companies across the country and around the world –whether you build automotive engines or search engines, Michigan has the workforce, the economic incentives and the quality of life that you need to succeed.

Thank you for listening.